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THE PLOTTER

CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA T/S
USERS GROUP
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ** NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 1985

EDITED BY: ROD GOWEN
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MEETING

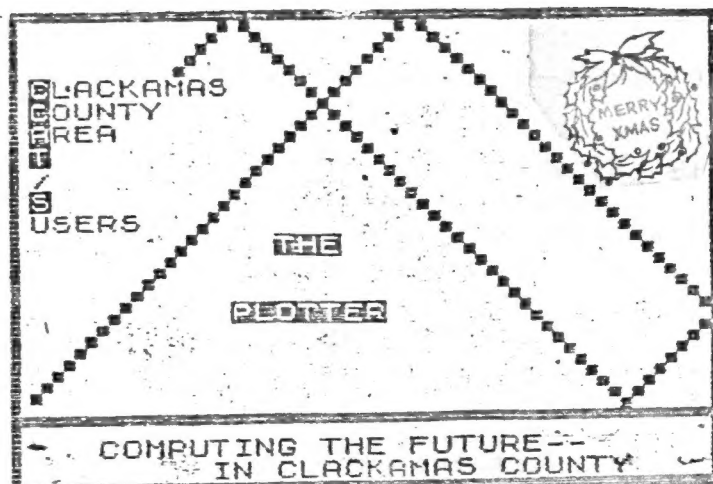
The DECEMBER meeting will be:

on: FRIDAY, DEC. 13, 1985
at: 7:30 P. M.
in: COMMUNITY ROOM
FAR WEST FEDERAL S&L
OREGON CITY SHOPPING CTR

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VOTE*VOTE*VOTE

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!
YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE YOUR OPINION.

DID YOU KNOW?

IN DECEMBER OF 1984 WE HAD A PAID
MEMBERSHIP OF OVER 60 PEOPLE?
THAT OUT OF THAT NUMBER WE ONLY
RECEIVED 17 BALLOTS BACK?
THAT MEANS THAT THOSE 17 PEOPLE MADE
THE DECISIONS THAT COUNT.
AS WAS STATED BEFORE, IF YOU DON'T
VOTE, YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO
COMPLAIN LATER.
THIS YEAR WE HAVE 45 PAID MEMBERS,
LET'S SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE A SAY
IN THIS YEAR'S AFFAIRS.

1986 DUES
ARE DUE BEFORE
JAN. 15, 1986
IF NOT PAID BY THAT DATE, THE
NAME WILL NOT BE ON THE MAILING
LIST FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER.
PAY NOW! SAVE TIME.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S COMPUTER

I must say that a lot of members missed a fine display of equipment and programming information by being absent at our November meeting. I was in hopes that a Friday night meeting would bring out more members again.

There are times that the Editor does not have an idea of what will be presented at a meeting so he cannot include this in The Plotter. Some members may want a schedule of the activities in advance but this is not always possible. The Editor does his best to let readers know.

Anyway members attending regularly know that there has ALWAYS been something to interest each person there.



SECRETAR'S SECRETS

The NOVEMBER meeting was held on NOVEMBER 8, 1985, at the above location. The meeting was called to order by DICK WAGNER, our Chairman, at 8:00 P.M.. After the Treasurer's report, we moved right on to the old and new business. There was not much in the way of old business, so on with the new! As you know, it is again time to nominate and elect new officers for the coming year. Nominations were opened and the results can be found on the Official Ballot that accompanied this newsletter. (Paid members only will receive the Ballot.) PLEASE!!! MAKE SURE THAT YOU GET YOUR BALLOT BACK TO THE NEWSLETTER BEFORE DECEMBER 16TH. IF YOU DO NOT, YOUR VOTE WILL NOT BE COUNTED!! Make your choice and be counted!

Please note that there is also a place to vote for the night that you prefer for a meeting night. Make your wishes known here as well.

We also voted to send our January issue of THE PLOTTER to all of the current members of PATS User Group. We will accompany it with a cover letter inviting them to become members of both groups. The opinion was that we had something to offer that they might like to take advantage of. Any and all are welcome to join.

There was an idea brought up concerning a computer fair. The discussion centered around the idea of having our own local computer fair, possibly at CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE. More on this later.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.. The members then broke up into groups to see what was new.

We had a first at this meeting! At least in our part of the country. We had at least 5 different types of storage devices on display. 1) casetts 2) A&J Microdrives 3) Zebra DD system 4) Aerco FD68 DD w/Tandon DSDD single drive and 5) Ramex/Amdek DD system w/dual 3" SSDD drives. Those of you who missed the meeting really missed a good one! There was, as always, many other items to see.

We hope to see all of you there for the next meeting. Who knows what goodies you may miss?

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The last month of the year. What has happened to 1985? The years since Uncle Clive set off the revolution with the ZX80 seem to have flown by. We remember when we first saw the ZX-81 in the magazine ads. A REAL COMPUTER FOR UNDER \$200!! UNBELIEVABLE! Well, we believed, and so did several million others worldwide. Look at what this man has brought to us since then: the Flatscreen Pocket TV, the Spexrum 16 and 48, the Spectrum +, the incredible QL, and now, as we have seen just recently, the Spectrum 128. That doesn't even take into account the C-5 Electric Car. What can be next? No one will hazard a guess. Only Sir Clive knows for sure. All we can say is, whatever it is, it will be interesting to see. Let's watch together.....

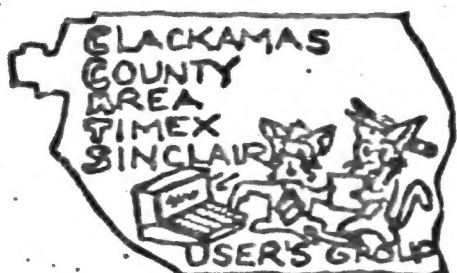
BITS & BYTES

During the month of December we all look forward to Christmas with a lot of hope. Hope that we will have let enough hints fall that we will get some piece of hardware or software that we really want. This year we have seen more new products hit the market than in any previous year. That includes the years that Timex was in business. To the best of my knowledge, there are over 400 different sources of products for our "orphan" computer. The following are just a few of the bits of news that I have gleaned for you during the past month:

SINCLAIR-has finally released the QL to US dealers. To date there are 8 dealers handling them in the country. Sinclair said that they would continue to sell the QL by mail for the \$299 price, but that they would not sell the Flatscreen TV. They will let the dealers sell that at \$99.95. They also have released a series of software for the QL. The local Sinclair dealer in the Northwest is RMG Enterprises, 1419 1/2 7th Street, Oregon City, OR 97045. (503)655-7484.

RAMEX-has proved to have changed the speed with which they ship their orders out. Rod Gowen ordered the new Ramex system the second week in October and received it in just under four weeks. The quality of their products is very good. Rod said that there will be a forthcoming review of the product. watch for it.

EMC(English Micro Connection)-is proving to be very slow in delivery. Rod Gowen informs us that he also ordered a Kempston DD I/F the 24th of Sept. and as of this writing has still not seen any shipments from this source. Rod will keep us posted as to the outcome on this order.



TS HORIZONS-did get #15 out and now has #16 at the printers. We are keeping in touch with this magazine because we think that it is one of the top ones out there and we can ill-afford to lose any of our mags. We are at a loss, however, to explain the fact that we did try to take advantage of the offer awhile back to subscribe to both TSH and Computer Trader for a special price of \$25/yr for both mags. A savings of \$5. To this date, we have not received a single issue of CTM. We heard rumors to the affect that the money sent to TSH never arrived at CTM. We hope that they get it straightened out. At the least, TSH had better extend our sub for another 8 issues.

ZEBRA SYSTEMS-has finally shipped the new OS-64. That stands for Operating System 64. It is a cartridge that fits into the eprom port and converts the 2068 to a 64 column computer all the time. It works with all basic programs and may even be programmable for some MC programs. They have also just released the Greeting Card Designer. This software allows you to design your own cards, all occasions, and print them on your 80 column printer.

KNIGHTED COMPUTER-is now selling the Amstrad Computer system from England. It is available as a complete system, including DD and monitor. It has 128K RAM and the DD is 3". Price is about \$500 for the computer and DD with reg monitor and \$600 with RGB. They are also working on the conversions for several super pieces of software from the UK. They should be ready soon.

RMG ENTERPRISES-is not only your local QL dealer, but now handles Tasman, Aerco and Zebra Systems products. They are also carrying NEC Color 12" composite monitors and NAP Green and Amber screen monitors. They will soon be handling a wide variety of new QL related items as well.

(cont. next page)

A BRICK WALL
IN YOUR COMPUTER

I REALLY HATE THIS DAMN MACHINE
I REALLY OUGHT TO SEEL IT,
IT BEVER DOES WHAT I WANT,
BUT ONLY WHAT I TELL IT!

3

(Graffiti written on
a university computer)

RESEARCH SERVICE LABS-apparently does not want to sell their products very badly. After almost 3 months and 2 letters as well as the items in this column, they still have not responded to our request to review one of the DD I/F that they advertise. We are of the opinion that they must have more sales than they can handle and therefore do not want or need free exposure. The offer still stands!

With all the news that is out there, I could go on longer, but we need the space for some other columns.

More news next time.....

HARDWARE

ESC Escape control code circuit

If you have a full-sized printer you might appreciate this circuit which generates the series of characters for the ESC escape control code - CHR\$27; - with one keystroke. The circuit can be implemented if you use 4066's to interface the keyboard with the computer.

Here's how Figure 1 works. Two NAND gates form an 18Hz clock. This is as fast as the computer can digest if you have more than three lines in the PRINT statement. The 18 Hz wavetrain is feed to the clock input of a 4017 counter. The 4017 has 10 decoded outputs - 0 through 9. When the computer is fired up, the 4017 counts up to 9 before the computer has completed its startup routine. When output 9 goes high, the counter is disabled. When the keyboard switch is depressed, a NAND gate used as an inverter resets the counter to zero thus enabling it to count again. As it counts back up to 9 the appropriate keyboard lines are switched in sequence through the 4066's.

Power for this little circuit and the 4066's was taken from the output pin of the UA78L12 regulator on the computer board. It's the little one, near the big electrolytic capacitors, that looks like a transistor. If your 4066's are powered from 5v at present, be sure to change to the 12v supply. Its a good idea anyway - the higher supply voltage gives better noise immunity and allows you to use two diodes in series in the switching logic lines if you want to.

"CHR\$ 27;" SWITCH CIRCUIT

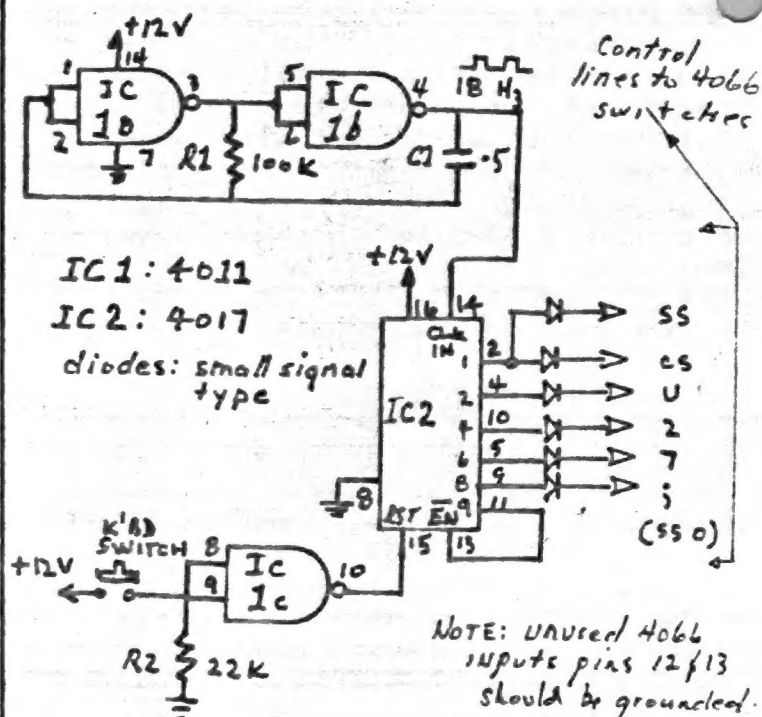


FIGURE 1

COMMENTS ON COMPUSERVE

Rod Gowen
CIS# 70436,1542

CIS: That stands for COMPUSERVE INFORMATION SERVICE. The definition is for those of you not familiar with the service.

I am, in this column, going to let all of you know what the T/S World is doing outside of our own local area is all about. I hope that it will help you in some small way.

I have had some good reports regarding this column. It seemd that several of our readers think that this is one of our better endeavors. I certainly hope that they continue to think so. I have not seen a column like it in any other publication. I will continue to keep you informed as to the happenings on CIS.

Cont. Next page

```

160 IF k=50 THEN PRINT #1,AT
1;"COAT/S Wish you Season's Be
!" ;AT 0,9;"Happy New Year!"

```



```

490 NEXT k
495 STOP
500 REM Routine to POKE decimal
    numbers into memory creat-
    ing graphic characters
505 FOR a=USR "a" TO USR "g"+7
510 READ user: POKE a,user: NEX
T a
512 REM DATA for Graphics
    A B C D E F & G
513 REM █ █ █ █ █ █ █ █
515 DATA 85,170,85,170,85,170,8
5,170
520 DATA 255,128,128,128,128,12
8,128,255
525 DATA 255,1,1,1,1,1,1,255
530 DATA 255,129,129,129,129,12
9,129,255
535 DATA 1,1,3,19,51,63,127,255
540 DATA 128,128,192,200,204,25
2,254,255
545 DATA 16,48,120,252,126,124,
56,16
570 RETURN
1000 REM
1010 SAVE "02,fire" LINE 10
1012 FOR k=-5 TO 7: BEEP .04,k:
NEXT k
1015 VERIFY "0fire"
1017 FOR k=-5 TO 7: BEEP .04,k:
NEXT k
1020 REM "FIREPLACE1" 12/6/84 by
    Jack Armstrong, Salem, OR

```

A SCROLLING XMAS MESSAGE

```

5 LET B=0
6 LET O=1
7 LET L=0
10 LET A$="* * * "
11 LET A$=A$+"SEASONS GREETING
5 FROM THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA
T/S USERS."
12 LET A$=A$+" MAY YOUR PROGRA
MS ALL BE KEYED IN CORRECTLY AND
YOUR SCREEN DISPLAYS GLOW WITH
PROGRAMMING WISDOM."
13 LET A$=A$+"* * * "
14 LET B$="* * * "
15 LET B$=B$+"COAT/S ARE PROUD
TO BE A PART OF THE T/S ACTION.
WE ARE COMPLETING OUR THIRD YEA
R AS A GROUP AND ARE LOOKING FOR
WARD "
16 LET B$=B$+" TO NEW PROGRAMS
, NEW HARDWARE, AND CONTINUED EX
PANSION OF T/S MAGAZINES"
17 LET B$=B$+" WE WANT EVERY
SUPPLIER OF OUR NEEDS TO KNOW TH
AT THEIR EFFORTS TO SATISFY ARE
TRULY APPRECIATED. * * *"
18 LET C$="█"
19 SLOW
20 PRINT "COAT/S USER GROUP EL
EVEN BOARD"
21 FOR N=0 TO 30
22 LET C$=C$+"█"
23 NEXT N
24 PRINT AT 5,0;C$;AT 9,0;C$;A
T 6,0;"█";AT 7,0;"█";AT 8,0;"█";
AT 6,31;"█";AT 7,31;"█";AT 8,31;
"█"
25 PRINT AT 15,0;C$;AT 19,0;C$
;AT 16,0;"█";AT 17,0;"█";AT 18,0
;"█";AT 16,31;"█";AT 17,31;"█";A
T 18,31;"█"
26 LET C$="

```

```

125 GOSUB 300
130 LET L=LEN D$
140 FOR B=1 TO L
150 IF B>L-27 THEN GOTO 210
160 PRINT AT A,2;D$(B TO B+27);
170 NEXT B
180 GOSUB 300
190 LET L=LEN D$
200 GOTO 160
210 PRINT AT A,2;D$(B TO L);
220 GOTO 190
230 IF O=1 THEN GOTO 400
240 LET D$=C$+B$+" "
250 LET A=17
260 LET O=1
270 RETURN
280 LET D$=C$+A$+" "
290 LET A=7
300 LET O=0
310 RETURN
320 SAVE "BULLETIN"
330 GOTO 70
340 SLOW

```

ARTICLE

Tips On Use of Color Commands In Extended Mode

By Jack Armstrong

When you want to put a color Command into a line so that it will be printed on screen in a color, you do not have to use the INK command.

Instead, you can imbed the color command in the line itself by using the CAPS/SHIFT & the SYMBOL/SHIFT together enter the EXTENDED MODE. Then hold down the CAPS/SHIFT & press the key representing the color of your choice.

This will imbed the color command just in front of the character that is the 1st one to print in the color. Then continue typing the characters until you are ready to change back to Black. Then go into the EXTENDED MODE again and, while holding down the CAPS/SHIFT key again, press the BLACK key. This returns you to the ordinary way of black letters again.

This is an interesting way to set off your REM statements so that they are eye-grabbers on your screen.

There are ways to change the PAPER commands, also, but I haven't been able to figure all of them out yet. I'm trying to see if the flash command can be inserted, too.

(Cont. next page)

Be sure to turn off the command at the end of the section you want to have in color. If you don't the command will affect all characters following. It must be turned off.

No space will be taken for the command in the line, but you will see the cursor change color and everything that you type will be affected.

A CHRISTMAN MESSAGE FROM THE PLOTTER

WE, AT THE PLOTTER, WISH TO EXTEND
OUR WORMEST BEST WISHES IN THIS,
THE MOST JOYOUS OF SEASONS,
TO ALL OF OUR LOYAL READERS.

WE ALSO WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT
WE DO NOT FORGET TO WISH YOU
THE VERY BEST IN THE YEAR AHEAD.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

This is a sample from TECH-
DRAW which can be used to
make headlines in three sizes
and three styles.

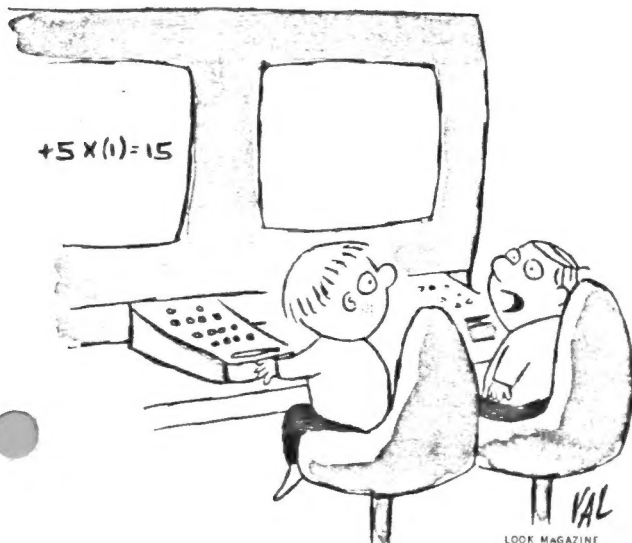
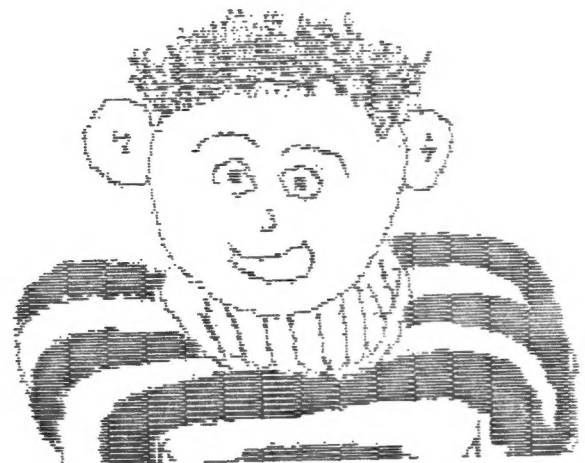
*This is the italic style in the small
size.*

**This is the medium size and
bold style.**

This is the large size and in
the normal weight.



CCATS



LOOK MAGAZINE

"I have to leave the room. Which button do I press?"

#####

#####

#####

%
%
% **TIMEX 1000** %
% **W/16K RAM** %
% **SUPER CHRISTMAS PRICE** %
%
% **ONLY \$27.95** %
%
% **THESE ARE ALL NEW** %
% **IN THE BOX, UNITS** %
% **REGULAR RMG PRICE-\$46.90** %
% **(PLEASE ADD \$3 S&H)** %
%
% **BUY NOW! PRICES WILL NOT** %
% **BE THIS LOW AGAIN!** %
%
% **YOU'VE BEEN WAITING!** %
% **THE QL IS NOW IN STOCK!!** %
% **BE SURE TO SEE IT!!** %
%
% **JUST CALL OR WRITE:** %
%
% **RMG** %
% **ENTERPRISES** %
% **1419 1/2 7TH STREET** %
% **OREGON CITY, OR 97045** %
% **(503) 655-7484** %
%
% **S.A.S.E.** %
% **FOR FREE CATALOG** %
% **SEND THIS AD OR A COPY** %
% **WITH ORDER-RECEIVE \$5** %
% **OFF ORDER OF \$25 OR MORE!** %
#####

WANTED

WOULD LIKE TO BUY:
INTERSTATE ENGINEERING 64K RAM
USED MODEM FOR TS1000, ANY TYPE
CALL WEEKDAYS:10AM/2PM PDT
(503) 668-7414

O
C
S
S

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-8-

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